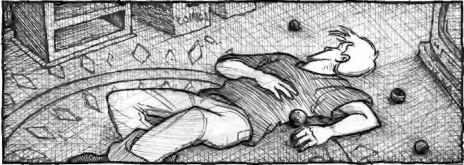


A black and white comic panel. On the left, a character's head and shoulders are visible, looking towards the right. A large, stylized speech bubble originates from this character, containing the text "GAAAAH!!". The background of this section is filled with radiating lines. In the center, a character with dark hair and a wide-eyed, open-mouthed expression is shown in profile, facing right. He is wearing a light-colored shirt. His body is surrounded by large, swirling, motion-line-like shapes. On the right, another speech bubble contains the text "TOMIE!? WHAT THE--??". The background of the right section consists of horizontal lines.

GAAAAH!!

**TOMIE!?
WHAT THE--??**



BACK, SOMETHING'S
HAPPENING! THE SHARD
SPELLS WE CAST AS
PRECAUTION ARE
CAUTIONARY NO LONGER!

THEY PULLED
ME OUT?? BUT I
ONLY MADE THEM TO
ACTIVATE IF I WAS PUT
IN EXTREME
DANGER!

WE SHOULD
GO, JACK!
AWAKEN
FROM
HIBERNATION!



I CAN'T LEAVE
NOW! I HAVE TO
FIND OUT WHAT'S
GOING ON!

BUT--

STAY ON
THIS PLANE.
YOU CAN PULL
ME OUT AGAIN
IF THERE'S
TROUBLE,
OKAY?


YOU'LL
BE
ALONE!

JUST...
STAY
FROSTY!


'STAY...?'

...YOU
TOO.







I'M NOT SURE WHAT I
EXPECTED TO SEE... BUT
IT WAS THE ONLY THING
I KNOW I'LL
REMEMBER FOREVER.



I SAW THEIR SOULS...
ALL THE FRIENDS I'D
MADE, EVERYONE I'D
JUST KNOWN...
... FALLING...
LIKE SILVER
LEAVES...



I DIDN'T CARE ABOUT
THEM AT ALL THEN, OR
ABOUT WHAT WAS
HAPPENING. ALL I
FELT WAS SAD...
THAT I WASN'T
FALLING TOO.



I REMEMBERED THE LOSS,
THAT SUBTLE NAUSEA, WHAT
I WAS RUNNING FROM ALL
THOSE WEEKS. I WOULD'VE
RUN AGAIN, IF ONLY THERE
HAD BEEN SOMEPLACE ELSE
TO GO.



I WANTED SO BADLY
TO BE WITH THEM...
BUT ALL I COULD DO
WAS WATCH.



Back so soon? I wasn't sure I'd see you again.

HAROLD?

HAROLD!?
WHA--
WHAT'S GOING ON!?

I'm a very bad wizard. Finishing off an immeasurably evil plot to do terribly bad things. Satisfied?

OMG!!
NO!!

SIGH... I suppose you're right. I had hoped to avoid the cliché exposition, but... oh, I probably owe it to myself. This has been a VERY long time in coming...

SHUT UP AND EXPOSE!! I'M FREAKING OUT HERE!

J-Jack, didn't you ever wonder what happened to the old wizards? The story-book types from romantic times? Most of them left sometime before the Industrial Revolution, deciding their day was finally done. Quit the whole affair.

But not ME. I felt the ages of man were as an ocean's tide, that one day industry would begin to recede, and magic would creep into the world again. So I remained, and waited for the signs... signs of a new magical age emerging.

Please stay awake.

YAWN--
I'M AWAKE.
I'M LISTENING!

I spent the centuries in almost constant meditation, working to create this pocket universe, carved out of the aether by my own sheer will. And here it was I welcomed the new generation...

WAIT-- YOU MADE THIS? WHY??

For the worst possible reasons.

I've been idle for some years now, watching the community flourish. A cosmic art-form, if you will. But I knew things were coming to a head. This ruse couldn't last forever... my little wizards had been growing keen. You know, the spirits even tell me someone's actually managed to summon and hold a demon in eastern America!

When you noticed something was up, I decided it was high time.

Time to take the power of an age.

THIS... THIS WHOLE THING'S JUST ONE BIG WITCH TRAP! THAT'S ALL IT EVER WAS! YOU BROUGHT US UNDER YOUR INFLUENCE SO YOU COULD STEAL OUR GIFTS!

Yes. It doesn't surprise me, of course, that some would have slipped through my fingers. I would absorb you like the others, but now that you're aware you're no longer susceptible. Rules of magic and all that...


I suppose you'll have to die. I'll have some contacts of mine handle the dirty work.

SNA--

SNAP!

Goodbye, tome-holder J-Jack. You would have been a good part of me.





WHO
SUMMONS
TWO KINGS
OF
HELL FIRE??



WHO SUMMONS
RAGE AND CAGE,
MOST TENACIOUS DEMONS
OF ALL DARK DREAD??



YES, JACK, YOU
HURT WEREN'T
EXPECTING
THAT, WERE
YOU?

YOU SEE, I'M
AFRAID I'VE
SUMMONED YOUR
PHYSICAL BODY.
POOF! RIGHT OUT
OF YOUR HOME
AND INTO THE NET.
DID IT JUST A
MOMENT AGO

SO-- LIKE ME-- YOU'RE
ENTIRELY HERE NOW.
BODY, SOUL AND ALL
MEANING, OF COURSE,
THAT YOU CAN BE
HARMED.

JUST
SO YOU
KNOW.

OH, AND
FURTHERMORE,
YOU WON'T BE
LEAVING BY
BOOK. I'VE SET
A WALL
BETWEEN
YOU AND...



...AND...WHAT
WAS IT? TOM?
TOAD?



WELL, AT
ANY RATE,
I CAN DO
THAT SORT
OF THING
NOW.



I CAN DO
VERY NEARLY
ANYTHING
I THINK.

OH, IG.
HE'S
PRAYING.





SHOOTCH!

I'M LUCKY, I
GUESS LIVING
WITH A DEMON,
YOU DEVELOP AN
EXTREMELY
HIGH PAIN
THRESHOLD

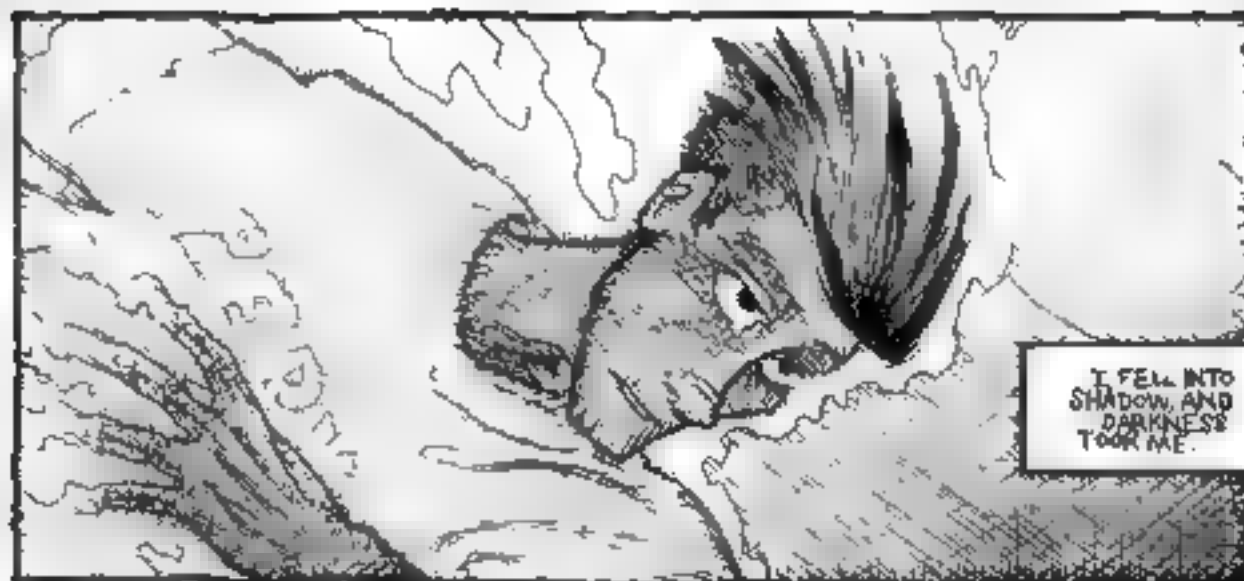
I'M ALSO PRETTY
LUCKY I KNEW HOW
TO JAGUUMON
DEMONS OF THAT
CLASS SOMETHING
ABOUT THE EYES

I-I
DID IT!

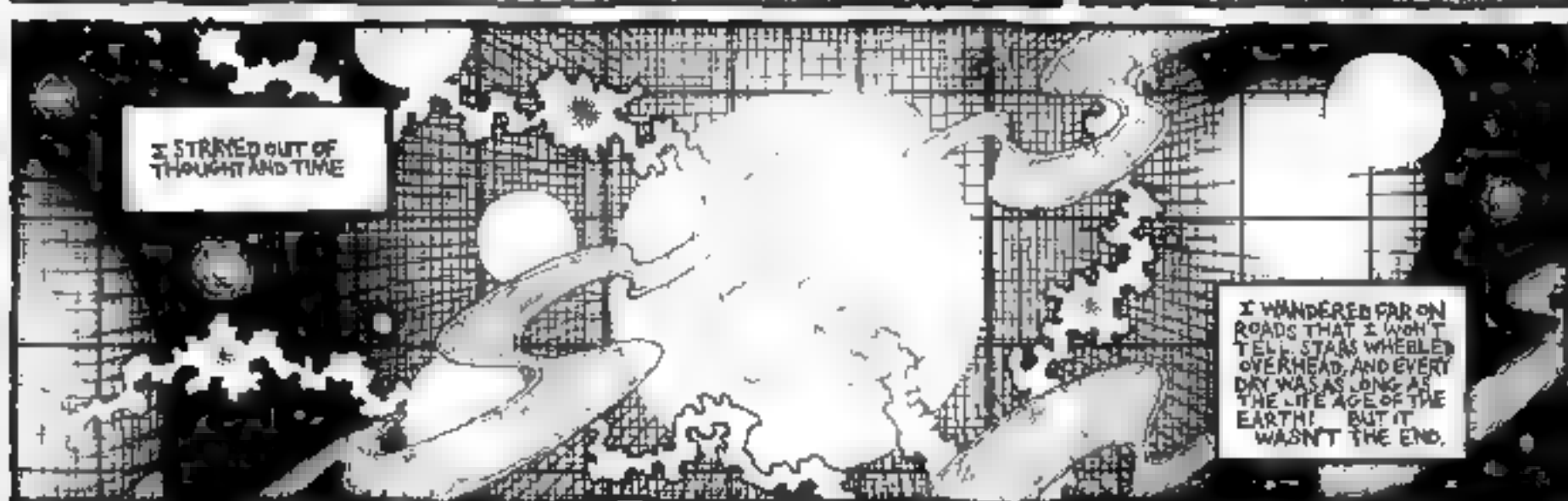
I GOT THAT
FROM A TV
SHOW ACTUALLY

I
D.

I DIED
THEN.



I FELL INTO
SHADOW, AND
DARKNESS
TOOK ME.



I STRAYED OUT OF
THOUGHT AND TIME

I WANDERED FAR ON
ROADS THAT I WON'T
TELL. STARS WHEELED
OVERHEAD, AND EVERY
DAY WAS AS LONG AS
THE LIFE AGE OF THE
EARTH! BUT IT
WASN'T THE END.



I FELT LIFE IN
ME AGAIN.
I'D BEEN
SENT BACK, UNTIL
MY JOB WAS
DONE.



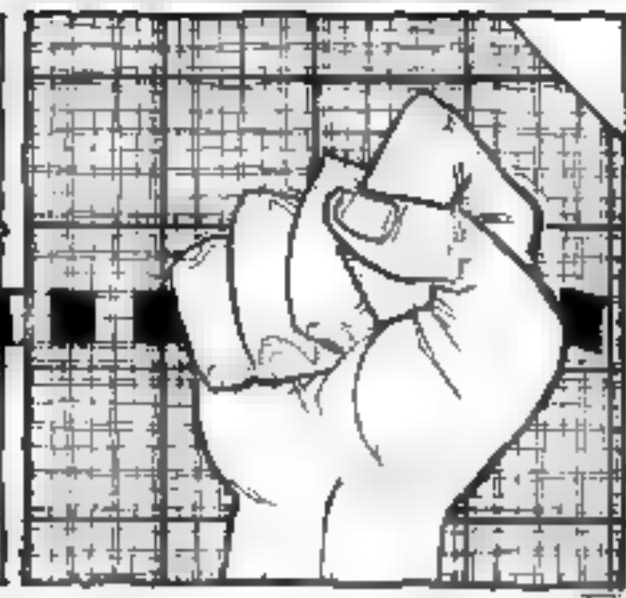
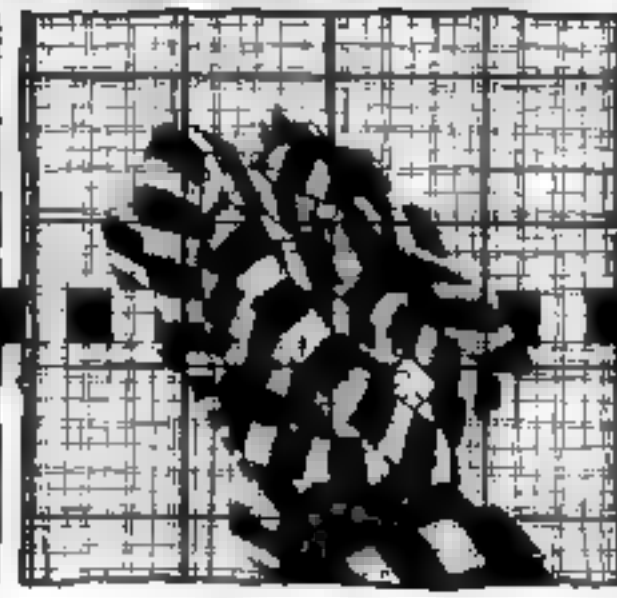
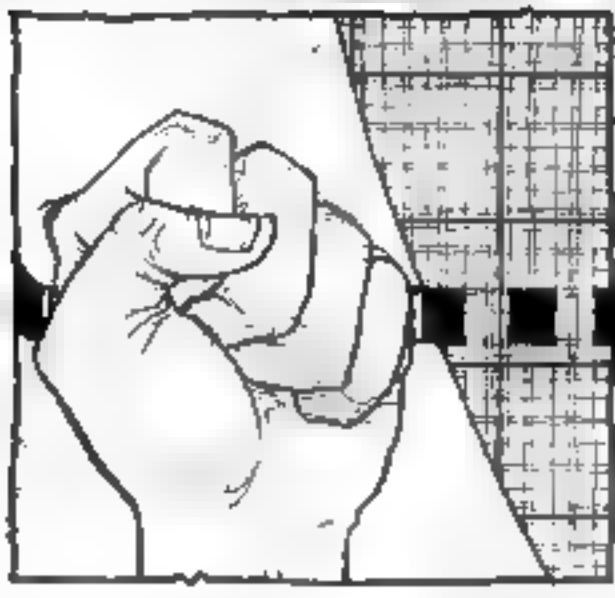
J-JACK ?

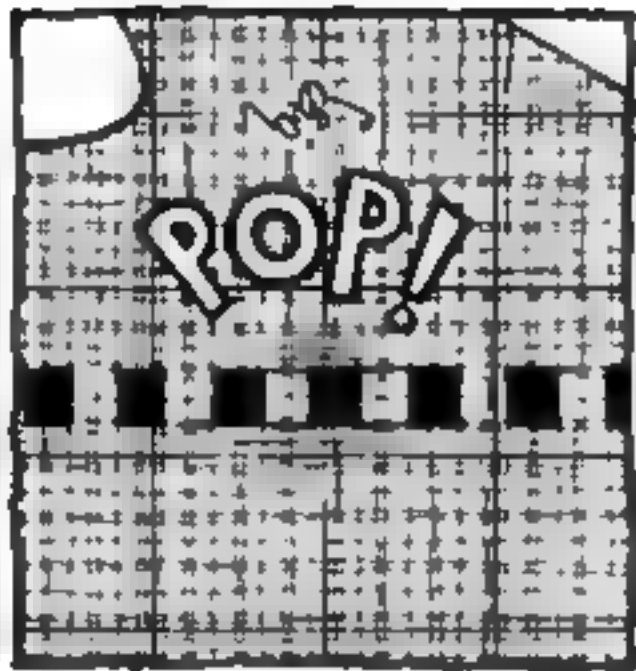
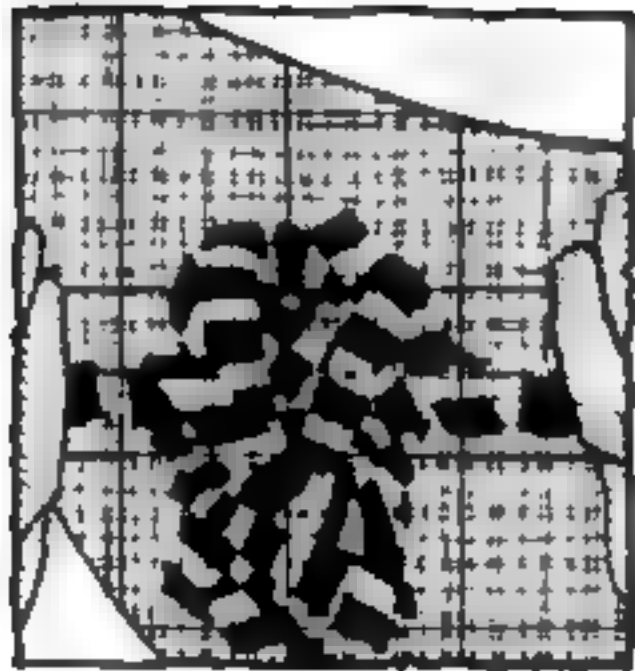
J-JACK?

OH, YEAH,
THAT'S WHAT
THEY CALLED
ME..




I'M
JACK THE
PLAID.







A black and white comic book panel. A young man with dark hair and a plaid shirt is looking surprised. A woman with short hair is behind him, also looking surprised. There are three speech bubbles.

TIME FOR
US TO GO
TOO, I
GUESS.


WHAT?

WHAT DO
YOU MEAN?
YOU'RE
FREE
NOW!

A black and white comic book panel. The same young man and woman are shown. The man is speaking. There are two speech bubbles.

YEAH, FREE
TO GO WHERE
SOULS'RE
MEANT TO
BE IN THE
END.

'S JUST OUR
TIME, MAN. UN-
LIKE YOU

A black and white comic book panel. The young man is shown in a close-up, looking determined and shouting. His hand is raised. There is one large speech bubble.

BUT-- I MEAN,
WE STILL HAVE SO
MUCH WORK TO
DO WE'RE GONNA
CHANGE THE WORLD!

..REMEMBER??



A black and white comic panel showing a man from the chest up, looking upwards with a pained or desperate expression. His mouth is slightly open, and his eyes are wide. The background is a simple grid pattern.


I CRIED
AND CRIED.
THIS WAS
TOO MUCH
FAILURE.

I COULDN'T
BELIEVE I'D
LOST THEM

A black and white comic panel showing a man crawling on a grid-patterned floor. He is looking back over his shoulder with a weary expression. A small, grumpy-looking character is visible in the background.


I EVENTUALLY
CRAWLED OUT
OF MY HIDING
PLACE, BACK
INTO THE
EMPTY HOUSE
I HAD
NOTHING TO
BE PROUD OF

I
HAD
NOTHING.


A black and white comic panel showing a man in a trench coat and hat, looking down at something on the ground. The scene is set in a dark, possibly underground or industrial environment.

I DID
WHAT I HAD
TO DO.

I EARNED
SOMEONE'S
FORGIVENESS.




I KEEP IT QUIET
NOW, BUT SOME-
TIMES I PICTURE
THE REMNANTS
OF OUR BASTED
REVOLUTION
SOME DEAD,
OTHERS LIVING, BUT
DESTINED FOR
INSANITY WITH-
OUT THEIR SOULS
BEAD /ASIDE



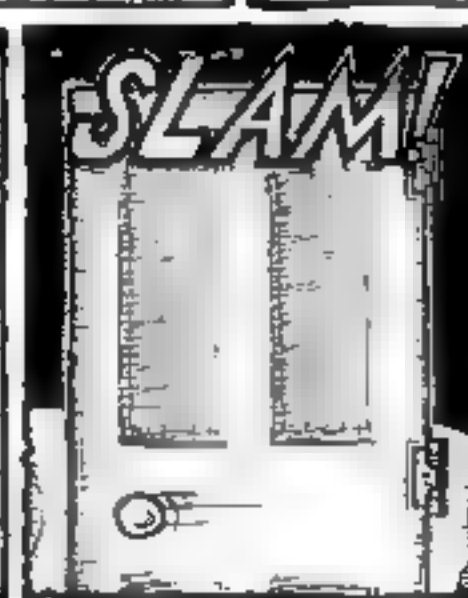
I THINK SOME
MUST HAVE SURVIVED,
THOUGH MAYBE
SKILLED OR LUCKY
ENOUGH TO HAVE
DODGED THE BULLET

I'M WAIT-
ING FOR
THEM. FOR
ANYONE
WHO'LL
FIND THE
NET



I'LL WAIT,
AND WORK,
AND ONE
DAY

I REALLY
WILL SEE
MY
WORLD
CHANGE





THE TALK WITH SANDRA!

JACK...?

HEY
WHERE'S
CRYSTAL?

DOWN-
STAIRS. I
THOUGHT
MAYBE YOU
TWO SHOULD
TALK
ALONE.

OH..
SO, YOU
WANNA
TALK
NOW?

JACK,
WHY DIDNT
YOU TELL US
ABOUT THIS?
WE WOULD HAVE
HELPED YOU.
YOU DIDNT NEED
TO COPE WITH
ALL THAT
ALONE.

NOT TO
SOUND
PISSY, BUT
IT REALLY
WASNT ANY
OF YOUR
BUSINESS

I WAS
GOING TO TELL
YOU WHEN I WAS
READY I'M NOT
A FREAKING K/D
ANYMORE, Y'KNOW!

I
KNOW
NOW.

I'M SORRY,
JACK BUT
IT'S WEIRD
YOU'VE ALWAYS
ALMOST SEEMED
PROUD OF BEING
A KID!

TELL ME ABOUT IT NOW
I CRAVE ALL THIS NEW
CRAP LIKE "DIGNITY"
AND "RESPECT"
ALL KINDS A NEW
CRAP.

WELL, I
HAVEN'T BEEN
GIVING ANY OF
YOU THE
RESPECT YOU
DESERVE

ALL THIS TIME, I'VE
BEEN FEELING SO SORRY
FOR MYSELF... IT NEVER
OCCURRED TO ME THAT
ALL THIS STRANGENESS
MIGHT BE JUST AS
HARD ON EVERY-
ONE ELSE.

FROM
NOW ON,
JACK,
LET'S BE
EQUALS.
OKAY?

AT
LEAST AS
FAR AS
TRAUMA'S
CONCERNED.

SO DOES
THAT MEAN
LESS BURNING
OR MORE?

THE TALK WITH SAM!





THE TALK WITH CRYSTAL!

OH GOD
OH GOD OH GOD
OH GOD I MESSED
UP OH GOD WHAT
MUST JALK THINK
OF ME? HE YELLED AT
ME HE SNEERED DONE
THAT BEFORE I
ALWAYS THOUGHT
IF WE EVER GOT IN A
FIGHT IT'D BE HIS
FAULT! WHAT DO
YOU DO AFTER
FIGHTS?

WE'LL BE HERE
FROM THIS IS
WORSE THAN WAITING
AT THE DOCTOR'S OFFICE
FOR A SHOT! WHAT IF HE
YELLS AT ME AGAIN OR
GIVES ME A SHOT? I
DON'T THINK I CAN
STAND IT I DIDN'T
MEAN ANY HARM I
WAS JUST TRYING
TO HELP!
WASNT I?

AMH-- WHO AM I KIDDING?
I DID IT FOR MYSELF I DON'T
WANT TO HAVE TO WORRY, SO I
TOOK A SHORT CUT AND BROKE
HIS TRUST IT WAS SO EASY TO
FOOL MY INSTINCTS TO THINK
THAT HE STILL NEEDED TO HAVE
HIS CHOICE MADE FOR HIM BUT
HE HAD IT UNDER CONTROL AFTER
ALL HE HE CHEW UP
WITHOUT ME

I GUESS
ALL I CAN TELL
HIM IS THAT I'M
SORRY THINGS WILL
BE DIFFERENT, NO
MATTER WHAT
I WONDER IF I'M
THE COMIC
RELIEF NOW?

I
THOUGHT
WE WERE
BOTH COMIC
RELIEF!

JACK!! I, I'M
SORRY! I'M SO
SORRY!

I
KNOW,
I'VE BEEN
READING
YOUR
MIND.

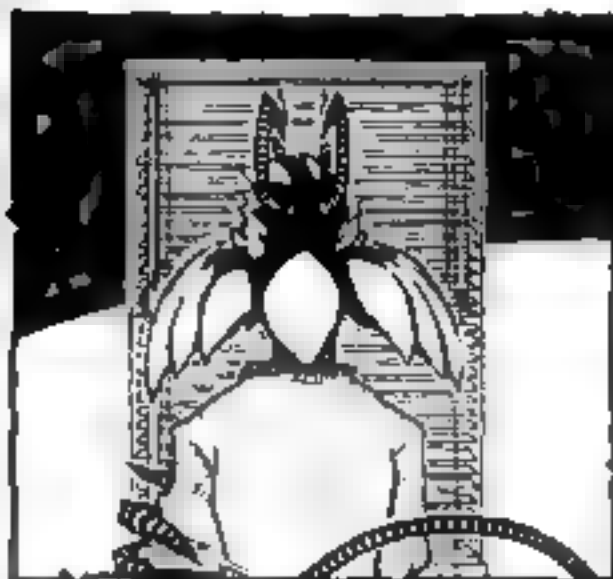
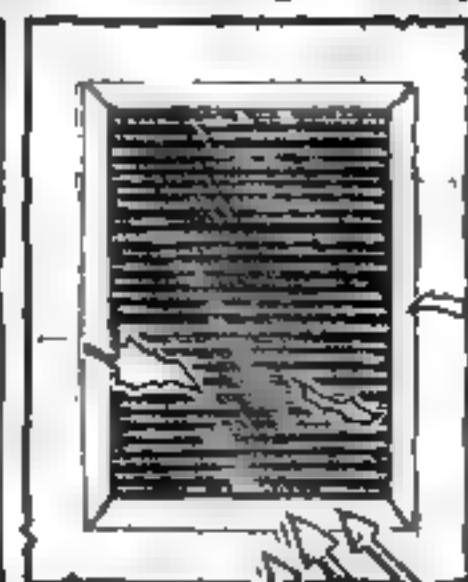
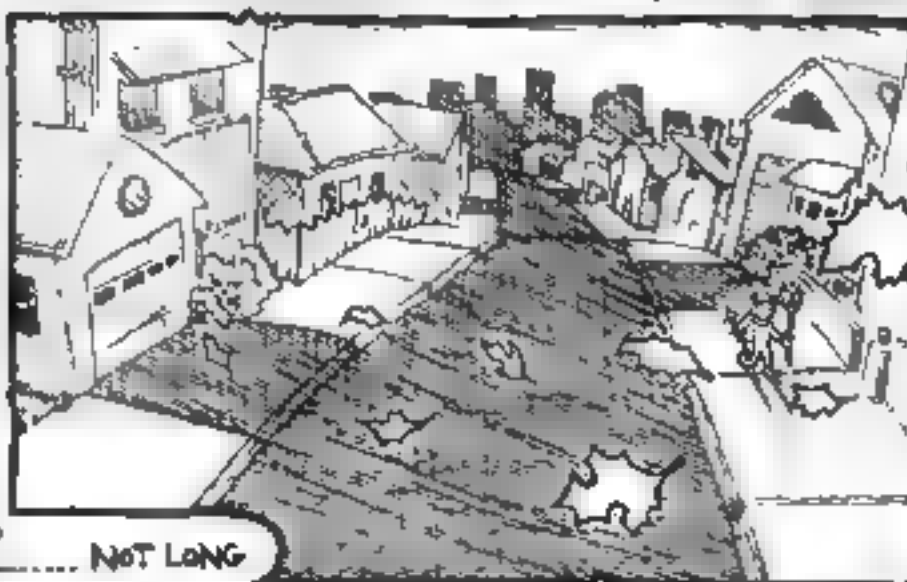
Y.. YOU READ
MY MIND? EVERY-
THING I JUST
THOUGHT?

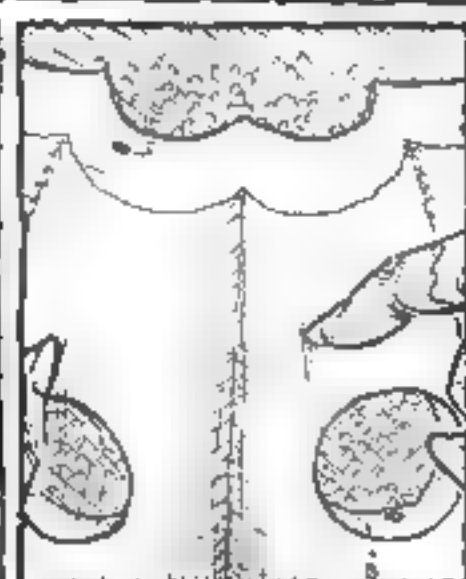
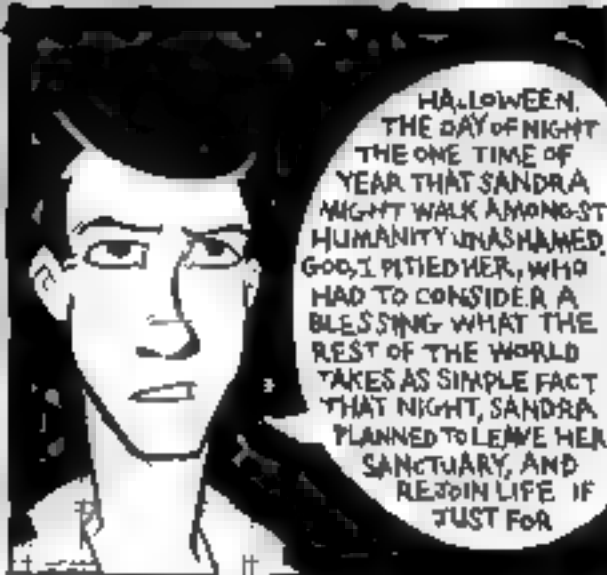
I
DIDN'T
WANT TO
WORRY

BEAT

SEE, WE
DESERVE
EACH OTHER...

I
GET IT,
JACK.









HO-KAY, I'VE DONE SOME DIG-GING, AND HERE'S WHAT I GOT HALLOWEEN IS SPECIAL TO CREATURES OF THE NIGHT-IT EMPOWERS THEM. DEMONS, IN PARTICULAR, BECOME ABLE TO CHANGE THEIR FORM AS THEY WANT.

MEANING.

BECAUSE.. I WANT TO BE ME I LOOK LIKE ME.

UNTIL THE SUN RISES, PROBABLY

AND THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO? YOU CAN'T, I DON'T KNOW, MAKE IT STICK?

NO. I'M SORRY, I'M JUST NOT THAT GOOD.

I'M SORRY

DO YOU WANNA SET HIM ON FIRE, HON?

YEAH.

I'M REALLY FREAKING SORRY!!





ONE EVENTFUL HOUR LATER

ARE YOU ~~ARE~~
YOU'RE OKAY,
CRYSTAL?

GEEZ, SHE'S JUST
A FOX PERSON TRYING
LIKE SHE'S HORRIBLY
BURNED OR SOME
THING

I'M FINE, I JUST
HOPE SANDY DOESN'T MIND
STAYING HOME FOR KIDS

HERE'S THE DILEMMA
ONE OF THE SNACKS IN
THIS BASKET MAY BE
POISONED

SO HOW MUCH
DO YOU WANT
CANDY TONIGHT,
KIDS? HOW
MUCH?

ALL WE KNOWS
WHAT HE'S DOING
REMEMBER HIS
HALLOWEEN
SPECIAL?

I DIDN'T
EAT CANDY
FOR WEEKS
OH, WE'RE
HERE!

SANDY?

I, UM,
FEEL
NAKED

WHAT'S
HAPPENED
TO ME?

WHEN
DID I
FORGET
HOW TO
SOCIALIZE?

I'M NOT A WALL FLOWER.
I USED TO MAKE FRIENDS
ALL THE TIME! BUT
HERE I AM, TAKING
IN THE VIEW,
TRYING NOT TO
BE SEEN.

CRYSTAL'S A
BUTTERFLY LOOK
AT ALL THOSE
GUYS CROWDING
AROUND HER

I WONDER WHY NONE
OF THEM ARE IN
OUTFITS ..

SHE'D PROBABLY HAVE
A LIFE IF SHE WASN'T
BABYSITTING ME
ALL THE TIME
HER AND JACK!

WELL, HER
ANYWAY.

DAMMIT,
I CAN'T
AFFORD TO
WASTE THIS!
I JUST NEED
TO START
TALKING TO SOME
ONE THEN I'LL
RELAX

WHY AREN'T
YOU WEARING
A COSTUME?

UH, GET AWAY
FROM ME OR
I'LL WEAR
YOUR SKIN!

NO.
THAT WAS
WRONG

AHH, I
SHOULDN'T
EVEN BE
HERE. I'M
TOO UPSET,
AND SOMEONE
COULD GET HURT.
I'VE BEEN A
DEMON TOO LONG.
THIS WAS A
MISTAKE
I SHOULD
JUST GO.

HEY, YOU LOOK
LONELY. CARE
FOR A DRINK?

HSSSS!

IS
THAT A
HISS OR
A NO?

WOAH

M. MIKE?



HEY
CRYSTAL,
ENJOYING
YOUR-
SELF?

YOU BET! I LOVE
BEING A FOX! I'M
WARM, FUZZY, I
CAN SMELL EVERY-
THING, AND MY
TOES ARE
AVAILABLE!



YEAH, THE K'S CUTE
TOES. JUST DON'T
GET TOO
ATTACHED ON



Y'KNOW
THOSE GUYS HE
BEEN HANGING
AROUND ME A LOT

WHAHA COULD BE
FURRIE'S WATCH
YOURSELF
SPEAKING
OF DO YOU
THINK WE
SHOULD BE
WATCHING
JANORA?



SHE DOESN'T NEED US
ALL THE TIME. JACK
HONESTLY, WHAT
COULD HAPPEN?



BRACE-
ONE COULD SEE
SOMETHING
LIKE THAT

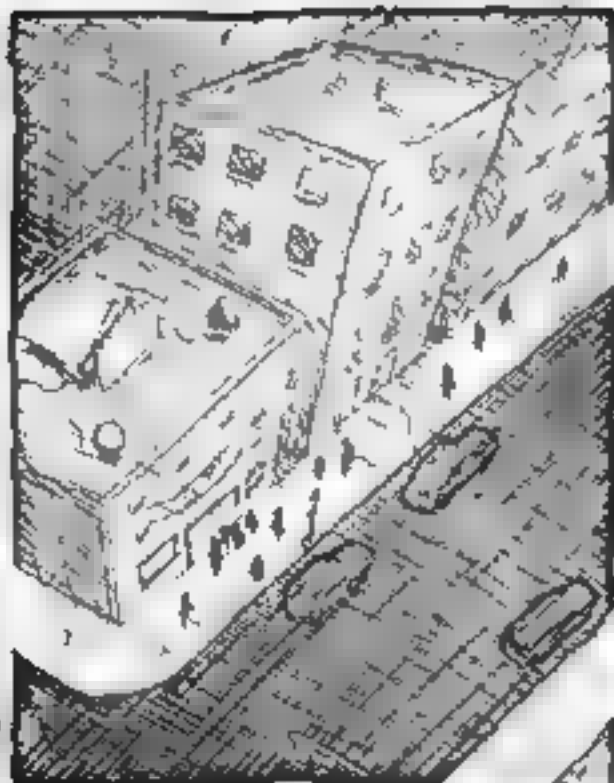
















THIS IS NOT
HAPPENING.
THIS IS NOT
HAPPENING. HOW
CAN THIS BE HAP-
PENING? IT JUST
CAN'T BE THIS
CAN'T BE
HAPPENING!

WHAT THE
HELL AM I DO-
ING ON TOP OF
A CHURCH?? I
MEAN, OF ALL
THE BUILDINGS
TO BE ON TOP
OF.. HOW
CONTRIVED
IS THIS?!



OH H, I REMEMBER NOW.
I SET DOWN TO WATCH THE
SUNRISE. I WAS SO OUT OF
IT..

I-I CAN'T CHANGE BACK.
I'M STUCK LIKE THIS..
AGAIN.




BE MOPY LATER, SANDRA!
RIGHT NOW YOU HAVE TO
FIGURE OUT A WAY
AROUND THIS!



SST!
KID!
WANNA
EARN
TWENTY
BUCKS?








WHO'S
THERE?


HERE
TWENTY
BUCKS, TAKE
IT OR
LEAVE.



WOAH!!
WHAT ARE YOU?
ARE YOU A
MONSTER?


DON'T BE
AFRAID! I'M
NOT GONNA
HURT YOU.

I'M IN SORT
OF A JAM. COULD
YOU HELP ME? PLEASE?



MY MOMMY
ALWAYS SAID THERE
WERE NO MONSTERS...
NO REAL ONES. BUT
THERE ARE.

YEAH, SORRY
SO, CAN YOU GIVE
ME A HAND HERE?
TWENTY BUCKS? EN?



GUESS THOSE SUNDAY
SCHOOL VIDEOS WE'RE REAL
FOR. ARE YOU GONNA
OFFER ME DRUGS
NOW?

TAKE
THE
MONEY

DEAR READERS
TAKING A MOMENT,
I WOULD LIKE TO
EXPRESS MY THANKS
FOR ALL OF ZEBRA
GIRL'S FANS, TO
WHOM MY SUCCESS
IS OWED. IN
GRATITUDE, I
PRESENT AT LAST
THIS CANDID SHOT
OF SANDRA BARING
HER NIPPLE RING. ♀
- ENJOY -

THE
REST OF
HER IS
INVISIBLE

HAPPY THANKS-
GIVING EVERY-
BODY!



AAAHH! GAS LEAK!

LOOK! GAS LEAK!!

THE STREETS
GONNA

EXPLODE!!!

RUN!

GET

INDOOR!

EEK!

GAS LEAK!

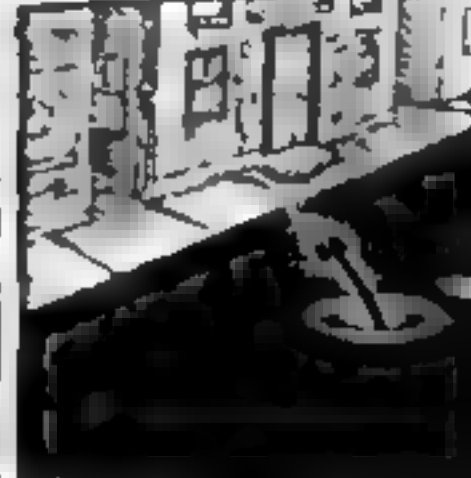
NO TIME!

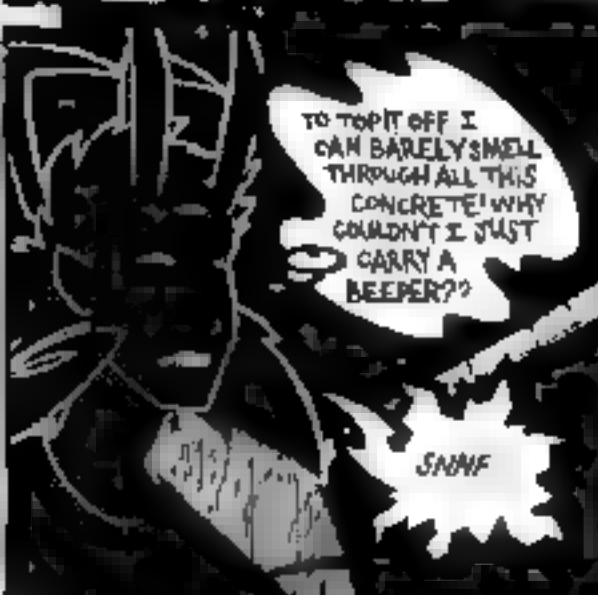
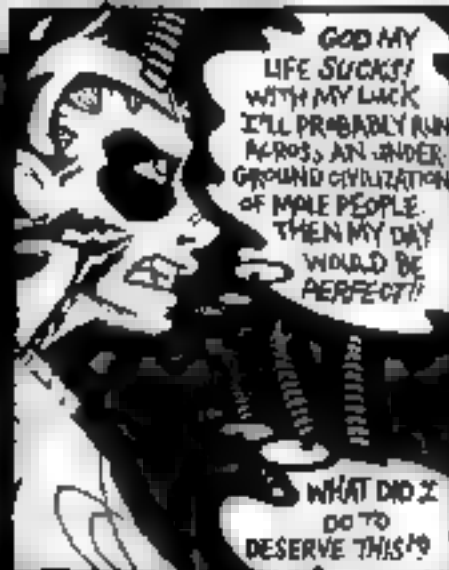
RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!

QUICK! GET INDOORS NOW!

MOMMY!!

MOMMY!!







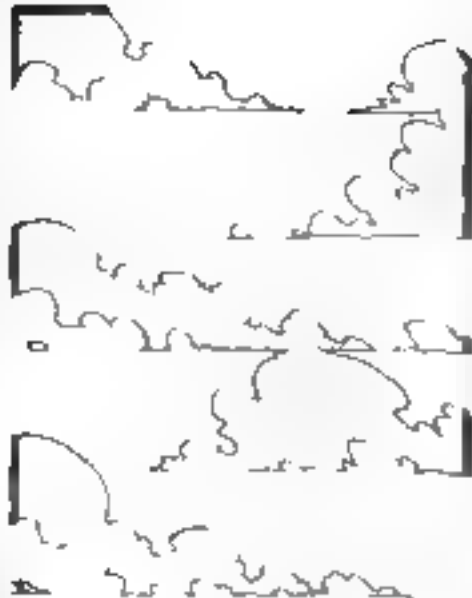
I KNOW
YOU'RE THERE.
YOU DON'T HAVE
TO HIDE ANYMORE

I'M IN
THE CLUB NOW.
RIGHT? LIVING
PROOF..



SO CAN WE
TALK, OR SOMETHING?
YOU'RE WATCHING
ME YOU'RE LISTEN-
ING I'VE LOST THE
ABILITY TO DOUBT.

NO
EXCUSES.



I SAID,
"NO EXCUSES!"





TELL ME WHY I LOST
MY FUTURE I DARN
IT DID YOU DO
THIS TO
ME?!

I HAD
THINGS
TO DO!!

DIDN'T THAT
OCCUR TO YOU?
THAT I WANTED
TO TAKE ADVAN-
TAGE OF WHAT
I HAD?!

I DIDN'T
KNOW WHAT
MY PURPOSE
WAS, BUT I
WAS GOING
TO FIND
IT! IT
WAS
MINE!

MY JOB
MIKE I
COULD HAVE
HAD A...

A
LIFE...

I'M
JUST
TALKING TO
MYSELF HERE,
AREN'T
I?

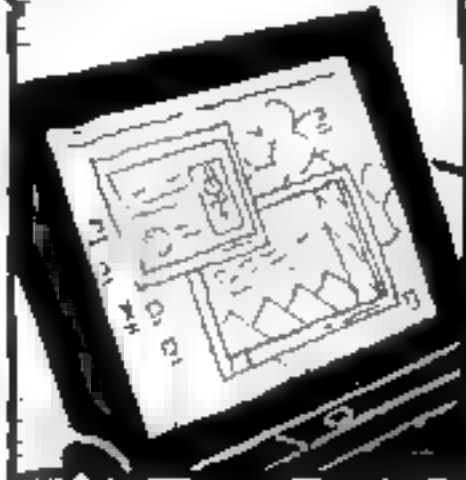
FUDGE! THAT'S THE
FOURTH TIME THIS
WEEK "DO NOT CALL
LIST," INDEED...

WHY WOULD
YOU NOT WANT
TO GET PHONE
CALLS??

EVERYBODY LOVES
ATTENTION! I SURE DO!
LIKE AT THE PARTY LAST
NIGHT, WITH ALL THOSE
CUTE GUYS ..

THAT
WAS
FUN.

TAP...
...TAP...



I'M SO
HORRIBLY
LONELY.





SO, THIS TOWN'LL
HAVE A FEW MORE
URBAN LEGENDS.
IT'LL BRIGHTEN
PEOPLE'S LIVES!

I DON'T
CARE ABOUT
THEM. ALL I
CARE ABOUT IS
DUMB OLD GOD
HIDING BEHIND
HIS DUMB OLD
CLOUDS.

...WELL??
AREN'T YOU
GOING TO TELL
ME HOW TO
GET OVER
IT?

IF
THIS WAS
A CARTOON
SHOW, I'D
KNOW

BUT I'M JUST SOME
RABBIT. REALLY, I'M
AS GUESSLESS AS YOU.

COME ON
SO FAR, YOU'VE
HAD ALL THE
ANSWERS.

ONLY GOD HAS ALL THE
ANSWERS. ALL YOUR
FRIENDS CAN DO IS
TALK BACK.

THE TOWN OF MISCELLANEOUS
AND THE RACE EASTERN AMERICAN
BURNED ON THE SURFACE IT SEEMS
WE'LL GET PROBABLY PLEASANT
EXHIBITION BY ALL ACCOUNTS



IT WAS THE DAY AFTER
WALLOWER IN I WAS HAVING
DINNER WITH MY WIFE
WHEN I FELT COMPELLED
TO GET SOME AIR



ON THE VERY SAME DAY OF ALEX'S ENCOUNTER ANOTHER STRANGE SIGHTING TOOK PLACE EARLIER IN THE MORNING. YOUNG EMILY CRIG WAS OUTSIDE A LOCAL CHURCH WHEN WITHOUT WARNING SHE BEGAN SCREAMING THAT A WAS BEAR. SCRAMING THAT A WAS BEAR WAS ABOUT TO MATE THE STREET PANIC ENSUED.



THE RE WAS NO DANGER

BUT PERHAPS THE MOST COMPELLING INCIDENT HAPPENED EVEN EARLIER ON THAT FATAL DAY FOR AS THE SUN RISE AND HALLS OF DEATH DOZENS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS BECAME THE DEAD.

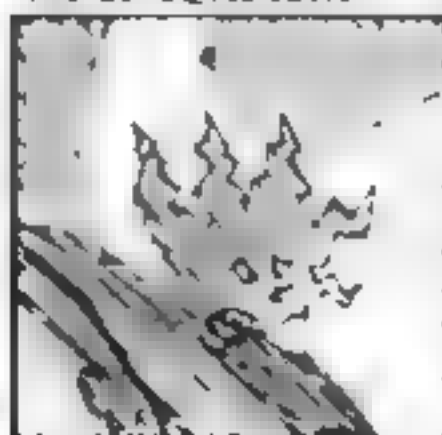


ASK ANY ONE OF THE MEN AND THEY
WILL SWEAR TO HAVING SEEN A
MONSTER, BUT WINGED CREATURE
FLYING THROUGH THE SKY. MANY
WOULD SWORN POSITIVELY THAT EVIL
HIS COME TO THIS WELL-KNOWN JAIL.

BUT LURKING IN
THE SHADOWS OF
MISCELLANEOUS IS
A MYSTERY AND AN
ELEMENT IN THE
ONCE GHOST TOWN,
BOTH FANTASY AND
HOW TO REVEALING!



TONIGHT ON MYSTERIES
THAT HAVEN'T BEEN SEEN
YET? WE EXAMINE THE
MISCELLANEOUS DEVILS



I REMEMBER IT CLEARLY I
OPENED THE DOOR TO THE ALLEY
WAY AND AND THERE IT WAS



IT WAS SHAPED LIKE A WOMAN
BUT MORRINE JUST HEARD
LATER

IT LOOKED AT ME ANGRY, LIKE
IT DIDN'T WANT TO BE SEEN IT
PUNCHED THIS LONG STRIP
CLAW AT ME, AND SCREAMED
AND I WENT UP



XXXXXXXXXXXX-0000

MYSTERIES
THAT
HAVEN'T
BEEN
SOLVED
YET

ALEX BURN WAS
TAKEN TO THE HOSPITAL
BY HIS WIFE COVERED IN
SUNBURN BURNS AS
THOUGH ALMOST ALL HIS
SKIN WAS MORTIFIED AT
THE SAME TIME



THE GIRL'S
EXPLANATION FOR
HER ACTIONS COULD
VERY EASILY BE DISMISSED
AS A CHILDISH LIE WERE
IT NOT FOR THE JOY AND
SIMILARITY BETWEEN
HER ENCOUNTER
AND ALEX'S



SHE HAD THREE EYES AND PESTY
PURPLE HAIR, AND LONG STRIPEY
FINGERS, AND WAS CRAWLING
ON THE WALL LIKE A SPIDER. SHE
CALLED ME INTO AN ALLEY AND
TOLD ME TO LEAVE THOULE.



"I TOLD HER I WASN'T GOING TO, BUT I THINK SHE PERSUADED ME, BECAUSE THE NEXT THING I KNEW I WAS NORMALLY DRIVING AN AUTO SCHOOL BUS."

SHE ASKED ME
ABOUT A JAZZ LEAD
AND I DIDN'T KNOW
WHAT SHE MEANT



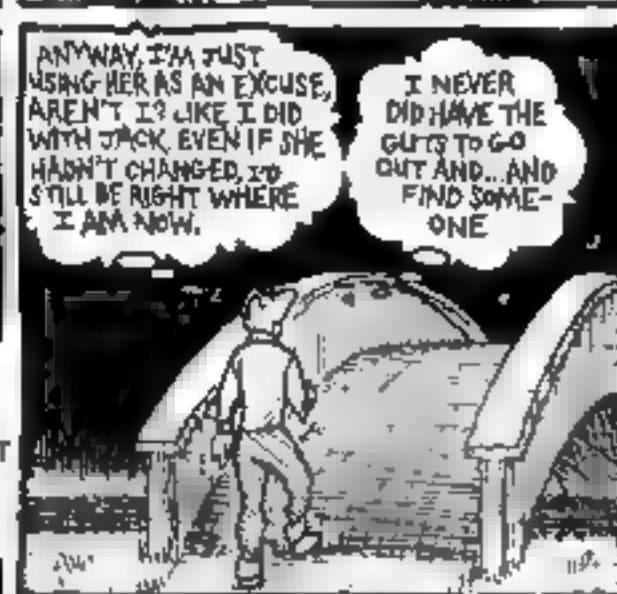
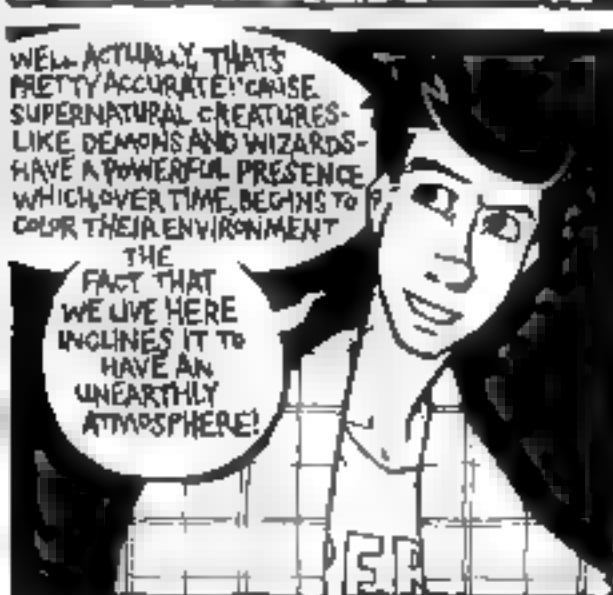
WERE THESE SIMPLY AN
ELABORATE SERIES OF PRANKS?
OR IS MUSIC LAMENAS A TOWN
LIVING UNDER A DEATH
CURSE?



I HAD
NO IDE A FULL
THINK I'D BEEN
A GOOD
MARKET

FEAR
THE JUNE
WE ARE THEN
PRETTY
QUICK









OH BUT
YOU'RE EVEN
WALKING ME
NO GAMES! HOW
CUNNING!

HEY WERE
YOU THE GIRL AT THE
HALLOWEEN
PARTY?

YES AND
YOU WERE
WITH THOSE
OTHER GUYS
WHO DIDN'T
HAVE COSTUMES.
ARE THOSE YOUR
FRIENDS OR
FAMILY?

MAN
I'M NEW
TO THE
AREA, BUT
SOME OF
US WE
STARTED
HAPPY.

WOW TRY THOUGH,
THEY CREEP ME
OUT

WE
THINK YOU'RE
THEY'RE WE'RE
WALKING FOR
LONG THINGS

YOU'RE
REALLY INTO
THE OCCULT,
AREN'T
YOU?

IS I
WERE, I
WOULD
BE A JACK
SKEED



AND ALL
THIS TIME I
THOUGHT IT'D BE
TOUGH HAVING A
RELATIONSHIP!
THIS IS EASY!

I'M PRETTY
SURE IT GETS
COMPLICATED
LATER
BUT YOU
WANT ME TO
STOP BY TO-
MORROW? I
CAN MEET
YOUR
FRIENDS!

UH OHRYGOSHI
NOW THAT I'M HOME
WE HAVE TO KISS
GOODNIGHT!
DON'T WE?!

WE JUST
MET, AND
ANYWAY IT'S
MORNING
DON'T
WOR--

SWOON!

WAS
THAT ENOUGH?
SHOULD I DO IT
AGAIN?

YEAH, NO
HAT, WASH
ME GOOD
NIGHT







HEY, YOU YOUR
EYES ARE DIFFERENT
COLORS!

YOU
NOTICED
THAT JUST
NOW??

I'M ACTUALLY STARING
AT YOUR PANTS THEY'RE
SO PRETTY!

MY EYES,
OR MY
PANTS?


MM...
BOTH?

GEET, YOU'RE CUTE!
YOU'RE LIKE SOME-
THING OUT OF A
KIDS BOOK!

WALLY?
IS THAT
PRETTY CUTE
OR CUTE
CUTE?

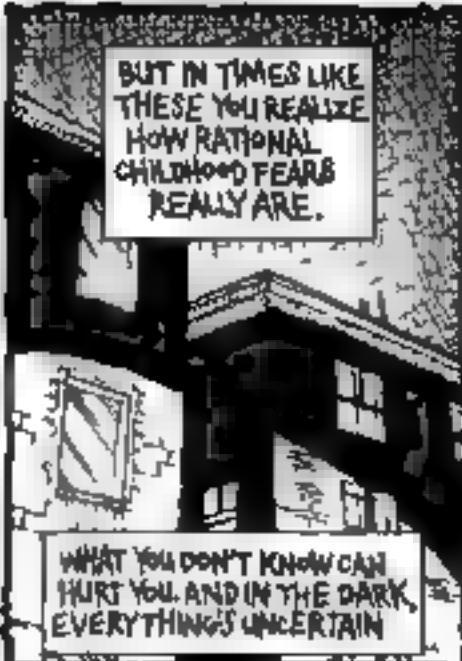
BOTH

I DID
NOT SEE
THAT
COMING!



NIGHT'S
COMING.

IT'S BEEN DECADES
SINCE I WAS AFRAID
OF THE DARK.




BUT IN TIMES LIKE
THESE YOU REALIZE
HOW RATIONAL
CHILDHOOD FEARS
REALLY ARE.

WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW CAN
HURT YOU. AND IN THE DARK,
EVERYTHING'S UNCERTAIN



I SMELLED SOME-
THING I DIDN'T
LIKE, SO I LEFT TO
CHECK UP ON
CRYSTAL.

ALMOST AS
SOON AS I
SET OUT,
THEY SET
N. NO, SE IN
THE DISTANCE.
THAT POWER-
FUL SCENT.



THEY'RE
ALWAYS
AHEAD OF
ME, FORCING
ME TO
TURN
CORNERS.

THEY KNOW
WHAT THEY'RE
DOING. AND I
KNOW I CAN'T
KEEP THIS UP

Y'KNOW, I
DON'T NEED TO
KNOW ABOUT YOUR
FRIENDS TELL
ME ABOUT YOUR-
SELF! WHAT
DO YOU
READ?

ENGLISH,
AND SOME
SUMERIAN
BUT THAT ONLY
CAME IN HANDY
ONCE AND THOSE
WERE JUST
FOOTNOTES

MAN: I MEAN, WHAT KINDS OF BOOKS DO YOU LIKE?

WOMAN: OH WELL, I ENJOY THE "SEE SAW" SERIES, AND THE OCCASIONAL BEUSS THUNH. HONESTLY, I FIND HIS ILLUSTRATIONS SOMEWHAT AGGRESSIVE.

AND LOVECRAFT.

AND
LIVE CRAFT.

YOU'RE KIDDING

NO, HE'S FUNNY! JUST ACTING LIKE A LITTLE. AND LAST THING, IT SAID TO LIVE A STRIPPY DOGS MONSTER OF MOUNTAINS

GO ZANY!

Q ZANY?

I NOW OFFICIALLY CONSIDER YOU THE MOST INTERESTING PERSON I'VE EVER MET

UNLIKE MY BORING FRIENDS!

UNLIKE
MY BORING
FRIENDS!

DAMMIT, I NEED TO
KNOW WHAT I'M
DEALING WITH! THEY
SEEM FAMILIAR, BUT...
STRANGE..

AAAHH,
EVERY-
THING'S
LIKE THAT
ON THIS
PLANET!

THEY'RE STEERING ME
AWAY FROM POPULATED
AREAS WHEN I TRY TO
MOVE INTO TOWN, THEY
BLOCK MY PATH. IF I
SLOW FOR HELP, THEY
START MOVING IN..FAST.

BACK HOME, MOST PEOPLE
COULD SMELL IF SOMEONE
HAD MURDER ON THEIR
MIND. FEW CRIMES WERE
CLEAN, SINCE THE VICTIMS
USUALLY SAW IT COMING.

IT'S ALL AROUND ME,
THAT SMELL DRIVING
ME WILD WITH PANIC.

I'M BEING
HERDED TO A
KILLING FLOOR.

IT'S DARK.
MY FRIENDS'LL
BE WORRIED.

I HAD
A GREAT
TIME, WALLY,
BUT I
SHOULD GO.

YOU'RE
ALWAYS THINKING
OF OTHERS,
AREN'T YOU?

I DON'T
KNOW. I
WHAT'S
WRONG?

CRYSTAL LISTEN,
WHATEVER HAPPENS, I
WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT
THAT I REALLY DO
LIKE YOU A LOT

WHY
ARE YOU--

CRYSTAL!

GET
AWAY
FROM
HIM!!





JACK?
CAN YOU
HEAR
ME?

YES'M.

WHY IS
YOUR VOICE
COMING OUT OF
THE WALLS??
ARE YOU IN A
TRANCE?

YES'M.

HAVE YOU
SEEN CRYSTAL?
OR SAM? THEY'RE
IN THE HOUSE,
RIGHT??

YE--





THEY MUST'VE BEEN
GONE FOR HOURS NOW.
WHY DID SAM LEAVE,
ANYWAY?

TO CHECK
UP ON
CRYSTAL, I
THINK.

NEITHER OF THEM
WOULD WANT US TO
WORRY THIS MUCH.
SOMETHING'S
WRONG.

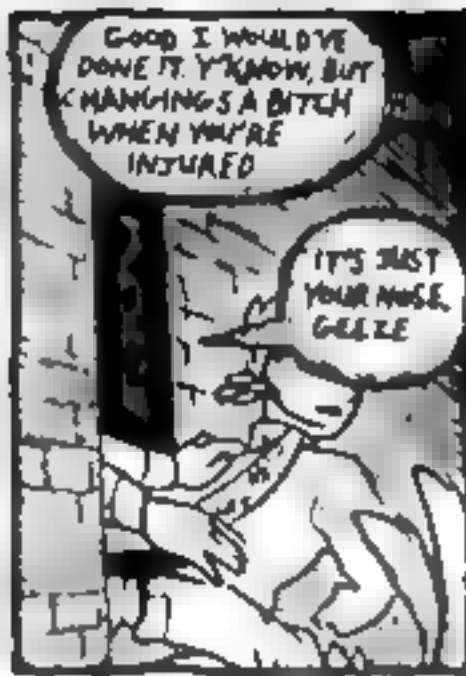
YES.
MY MAGI-
CAL SENSES
TOLD ME
SUCH.


JACK, YOU
DIDN'T KNOW
DIDDLY UNTIL
I BROUGHT
IT UP.

UM...
FATE
CONJURES
ITS WARN-
INGS IN
MANY
WAYS.

WELL COULD YOU
CONJURE SOMETHING
LESS RIDICULOUS THAN
HAVING ME
CARRY YOU??

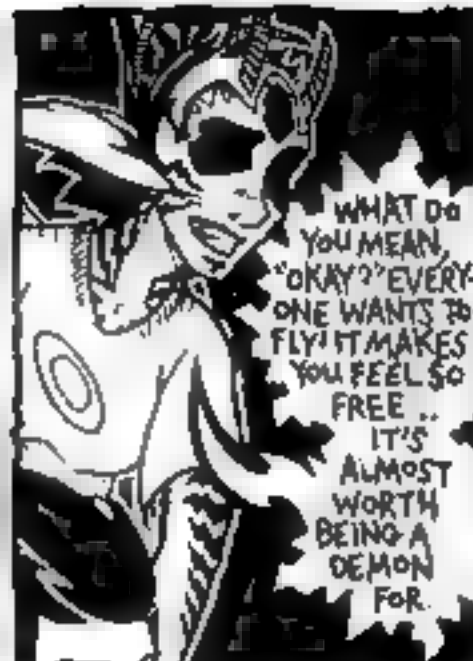
YEAH,
LIKE I'M
GOING TO MISS
A CHANCE TO GET
CARRIED AROUND
BY A HOT CHICK



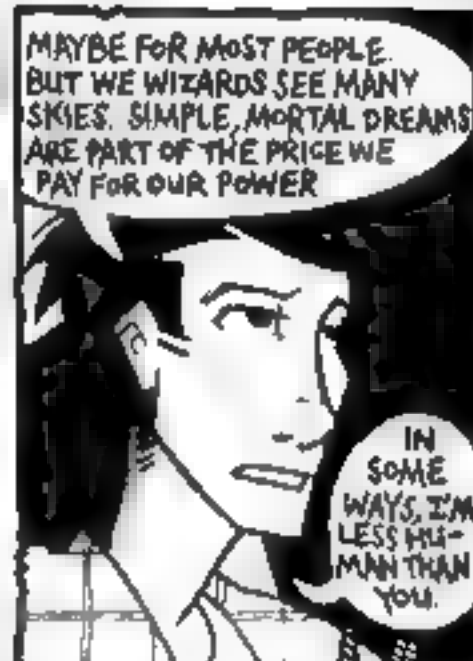
A black and white comic panel showing a young man, Jack, and a demon flying through the air. Jack is in the foreground, looking back over his shoulder. The demon is behind him, also looking back. They are both wearing flight gear.

.. BUT AT LEAST
THIS GIVES ME
AN EXCUSE TO GO
FLYING... DON'T YOU
LOVE IT, JACK?

EH.
IT'S
OKAY.

A black and white comic panel showing a close-up of the demon's face. He has a wide, toothy grin and is looking towards Jack.

WHAT DO
YOU MEAN,
"OKAY?" EVERY-
ONE WANTS TO
FLY! IT MAKES
YOU FEEL SO
FREE ..
IT'S
ALMOST
WORTH
BEING A
DEMON
FOR.

A black and white comic panel showing a close-up of Jack's face. He has a serious, somewhat weary expression.

MAYBE FOR MOST PEOPLE.
BUT WE WIZARDS SEE MANY
SKIES. SIMPLE, MORTAL DREAMS
ARE PART OF THE PRICE WE
PAY FOR OUR POWER

IN
SOME
WAYS, I'M
LESS HU-
MAN THAN
YOU.

A black and white comic panel showing Jack looking up in a dark, textured space, possibly a cave or a night sky. He has a concerned expression.

JACK.
UH. .

UHM,
SHOULDN'T
THEY BE
DOWN THERE
SOME-
WHERE?
















WHY DID YOU COME TO
THIS TOWN?? IT
CAN'T JUST BE
COINCIDENCE -!

HMM
YOU'RE
CLEVER, IN
YOUR WAY.
CRYSTAL...

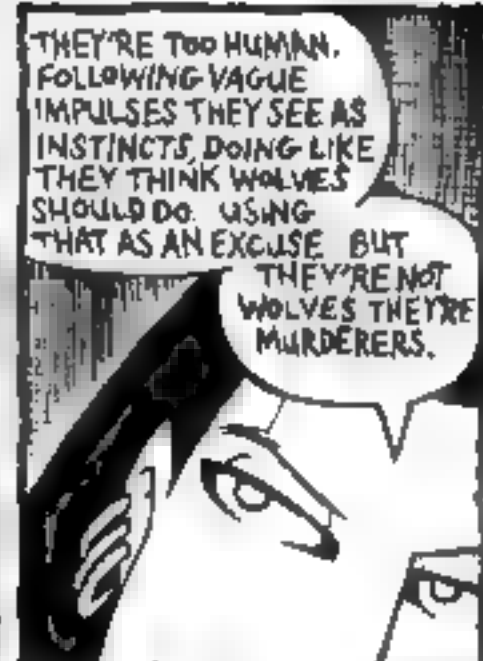


I'M GOING TO LAY
MY CARDS ON THE TABLE,
HERE MY BOYS ARE.
THEY'RE A DIS-
APPOINTMENT.

THEY SEEM
VERY IMPRESSIVE
TO ME



OH, THEY ARE, FOR KIDS OFF
THE STREETS. LOTS OF ANGER
TO FUEL THE BEAST THAT'S
WHAT ATTRACTED ME TO THEM
FIRST BUT THEY WON'T GROW
MUCH PAST WHAT THEY
ARE NOW



THEY'RE TOO HUMAN.
FOLLOWING VAGUE
IMPULSES THEY SEE AS
INSTINCTS, DOING LIKE
THEY THINK WOLVES
SHOULD DO. USING
THAT AS AN EXCUSE BUT
THEY'RE NOT
WOLVES THEY'RE
MURDERERS.




OH GOD WHAT
IF THEY KILL
HER WHAT IF
THEY KILL
HER?



I'M NOT SUPPOSED
TO CARE I'M A
WOLF WOLVES
DON'T CARE




AND
MONSTER
WINGS WHAT'S
WITH THE
MONSTER
WINGS?



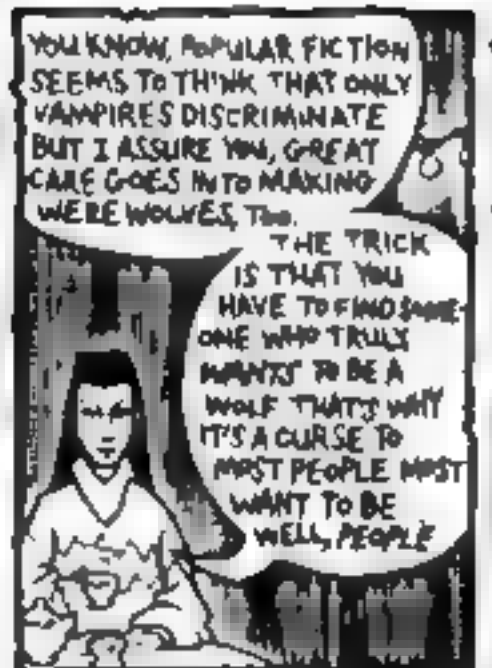
E-EA-
CUSE ME?

WELL WHEN
A WOLF KILLS
A HUMAN, IT'S
NATURE WHEN
A HUMAN KILLS
A HUMAN, IT'S
MURDER YOU
UNDERSTAND




THEY'VE KILLED
PEOPLE? WHY WHY
DID YOU MAKE ALL
THESE GUYS
WEREWOLVES??

COMPLICATED.



YOU KNOW, POPULAR FICTION
SEEMS TO THINK THAT ONLY
VAMPIRES DISCRIMINATE
BUT I ASSURE YOU, GREAT
CARE GOES INTO MAKING
WEREWOLVES, TOO.

THE TRICK
IS THAT YOU
HAVE TO FIND SOME-
ONE WHO TRULY
WANTS TO BE A
WOLF THAT'S WHY
IT'S A CURSE TO
MOST PEOPLE MOST
WANT TO BE
WELL, PEOPLE

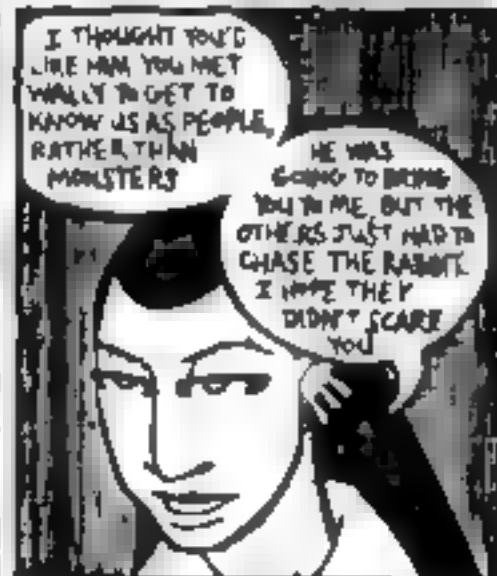


NOW, I WENT THROUGH
A SELF-DESTRUCTIVE
PHASE SEVERAL DECADES
AGO. LONG STORY SHORT I
CAN NOT HAVE CHILDREN
ANYMORE IF I WANT A
PACK, VOLUNTEERS ARE
THE BEST I CAN DO.
SADLY, IT SELDOM WORKS OUT

I'LL HAVE TO
KILL THEM,
SOON

IS
THE TEA
NOT
GOOD?







LOOK,
UM...

DOYENNE.

DOYENNE.
WE DON'T
WANT ANY
TROUBLE, AND
YOU SEEM LIKE A
REASONABLE
HELLBITCH.

ALL WE WANT IS
TO TAKE BACK
OUR OWN, AND
GO HOME. NONE
OF US ARE
INTERESTED IN
RETALIATION.

WE'RE
ALL SUPER-
NATURALLY
INCLINED... SURELY
WE CAN RESPECT
EACH OTHER'S...
STUFF!

FOREMOST, WE
WOLVES RESPECT
STRENGTH. AND
YOU HAVE NOT
WARDED YOUR
TERRITORY ENOUGH
TO KEEP US
OUT.

I WAS
GONNA DO
IT NEXT
WEEKEND.
REALLY!

I'M AFRAID WE'LL JUST
HAVE TO SETTLE THIS
THE OLD WAY. BESIDES,
MY BETA'S ALREADY
MAKING A MESS.

HEH. I
COULD MAKE
A POO JOKE
NOW, BUT I
WON'T.





